

COURT JUSTIFIES WALLOPING GIVEN MOTHER-IN-LAW

Sees No Reason for Punishing
Man on Whom Foolish
Joke Was Played.

OUT FOR TWO HOURS

Victim Rather Surprised When
Told She Was Lucky
to Be Alive.

Some of the married men in Brooklyn are rejoicing today over the ruling of Magistrate Voorhees that a son-in-law is sometimes justified in taking a wallop at his wife's mother.

Robert Pease, of No. 217 Fifty-first street, Brooklyn, is a machinist in the employ of the Luppenebach Machine Company on Twenty-seventh street. He first got in wrong with the day he lambasted Mrs. Clara Cusack, the wife of a day five years ago and married her daughter Alice. Since that time it has been an even struggle between the pair. At times Mrs. Clara Cusack, the wife's mother saw her son-in-law groveling in the dust at her feet and begging mercy. Again he got the upper hand and Mrs. Cusack had to take a back seat. The finish came yesterday when she was desecrated and backed by a court's decree.

Pease was grinding away at a piece of iron in his shop Wednesday afternoon when little George Lang, who lives next door to Mrs. Cusack, came to him.

"There's a big bundle for you in the office, Mr. Pease. The boss wants you to come and get it right away."

"Bring it out here, I haven't got time to go in there," he told the boy. George ran in and got the bundle, threw it at Pease's feet and then ran away.

Pease and his fellow workmen, about twenty in number, crowded around as he stripped open the package. Various suggestions were made as to the contents of the neatly wrapped outfit but none of them guessed right.

Pease had only reached the first layer of the interior when he dropped the package and left the building. His friends continued to overhaul the mysterious package, and found to their amusement five babies' petticoats, sixteen pairs of small stockings, a pair of tiny shoes, an infant's complete outfit of underclothes and certain other articles essential to the infant's comfort.

Raking straight over to his mother-in-law he banged in the door and found her in the midst of her daily labors. She wore a smile all the way across her face and was humming a melody of her younger days.

"Hey, what's ailing you, anyhow?" was the first note of alarm which reached her ears. She turned and saw a very angry young son-in-law.

Leads for Her Left Eye.

"Why, Robert, nothing. Did you get your bundle. Surely you can have use for those things." It was all said to sort of placate him. Robert was not to be soothed, however. He remembered the shout of laughter which went up in the shop and thought of what he would have to face when he returned. Questions and answers followed fast, and then mother-in-law found herself stopping a straight arm jolt full for the left eye. Down she went in a heap. Sympathizing mothers-in-law in the same house heard the racket and arrived in time to pick up their fallen sister and take her to her bed. Here she lay more than two hours. Friends and lodge members called and it was decided to press the case against the son-in-law.

Kindness Misplaced.

"Why, the baby needed the clothes, the mother-in-law said to an evening World reporter to-day. 'I just didn't think the child looked well enough, and those clothes were some which had accumulated for years. I never will have any use for them. Part of them I got from a neighbor long ago. They were very expensive once upon a time. I thought it would be nice to forward them to Robert so that he could take them right home. I got little George Lang, who works in the shop, too, to take them to him.'

Then the ugly brute, he came home here, insulted me for making a show of him, he said, in front of his fellow-workmen, and wound up the interview by smashing me over the left eye with this—"

"Just to show what an ingrate he is," will tell you something more. He came here to my house to live with his wife and four children and his grandmother last February. Until a month or so ago he only paid me \$10 a week for the seven. I couldn't afford to keep the whole Pease family longer and told him so. Before he left he ousted his grandmother and refuses to support her."

Pease was not in a pleasant mood when approached.

"I don't want anything more said of this affair," he said. "It's only a case of a mother-in-law butting in too much. She thought she was funny when she sent the clothes, but the joke ended in the other way. Mayhap she will learn to mind her own business now. That's all."

DEAD ON STREET
WITH HEAD GASHED

Jersey Police Think Rutherford Man Was Either Struck by a Car or Fell.

RUTHERFORD, N. J., Aug. 23.—Lying alongside the gutter and close to the trolley tracks on Hackensack street, Charles Farr, a civil engineer, fifty-five years of age, was found dead last night, and the authorities are today making an investigation to ascertain how he met death.

There was a deep gash on his forehead which evidently caused his death. There are several theories as to the manner of death, one that he was walking across the track and was struck by a trolley car. Another is that he slipped and fell, his head striking the gutter.

It is not believed he was held up and murdered, as his watch and the money in his clothing was found to be intact.

Farr, who was well known here, was employed by A. H. Jacoby, a local civil engineer. He had been at work yesterday as usual, and last night left Mr. Jacoby's home to visit friends. Farr was on his way home when he met death. His body was taken to Collins's Morgue.

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The room was found to be too dark for examination or photography, and to-day Capt. McCauley had an expert plasterer remove a section of the wall and convey it to Brooklyn Headquarters. There it was put under the microscope after it had been photographed.

On the section of wall cut out the tips of fingers and the thumb are fairly clear, while the rest of the hand does not show except for faint smudges.

Accusative Roddy said he would compare it with the prints of the hands of criminals now registered and would also make prints from the thumb of all suspects arrested in connection with the case in hope of getting a duplicate of the print believed to have been made on the night of the murder.

This is Brooklyn's first attempt to solve a murder mystery by the Bertillon system. Twelve years ago a thumbprint in red was left behind by the murderer of Miss Charles W. Henry, on South P. island avenue. The regular police didn't recognize the thumbprint theory in those days and were unable to fit it to anybody.

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